Export of rice

5297. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report which appeared in the 'Economic Times' dated the 9th April, 2002 under the caption "High-quality subsidized FCI rice being exported at reduced price";

(b) if so, whether in the report, it has been pointed out that trading houses sold at $13-15/t lower than the global rate;

(c) if so, the countries with whom such low prices contracts have been signed;

(d) the reasons for the same; and

(e) to what extent these reports have been found true?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) (a) and (b) Yes sir.

(c) to (e) The infromation is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Loan from Sugar Development Fund

5298. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received 24 proposals of the Co-operative Sugar Factories recommended by the Government of Maharashtra for loan from the Sugar Development Fund in 1999; and

(b) if so, Government's response thereto and the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) (a) No, Sir. Only two proposals for loan for cane development from Sugar Development Fund in respect of (i) M/s Malegaon Sahakari